

(c) and (d) The decision regarding financing of a particular economic activity by granting loans to companies is taken by banks and financial institutions based on their commercial judgement and the lending policy laid down by their respective boards within the framework of prudential regulations and exposure norms prescribed by RBI.

Food Itmes Exported From Maharashtra

†2364. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the food items exported from Maharashtra during each of the last five years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned on each of the items year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken for more and more production of such valuable items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Central Government maintains export data for the country as a whole and, not State-wise.

(c) Some of the steps taken/incentives given to increase export of food items are as follows:—

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity, training of farmers and setting up of model organic farms.

2. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.

3. Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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eliminating pest incubation in the product especially the mangoes for gaining access to overseas markets.

4. Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of floricultural items and select fresh fruits and vegetables.

5. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

6. setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such flowers, fresh fruits and vegetable.

7. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.

8. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination & ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.

9. Double weightage is provided to the exporters from North Eastern Region for fulfilling export obligations for the purpose of granting the status of Export House, Trading House etc.

10. The minimum export obligation for the units located in Export Promotion Industrial Parks in the North East has been kept at 25% of the production as against 33% which is the norm.

Growth Centres in Bihar

2365. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Growth Centres sanctioned for Bihar for promoting rapid industrialisation of the State;

(b) the details of such centres;

(c) whether all the Growth Centres in the State have become functional by now;

(d) if not, which are the Growth Centres which are yet to become functional and reasons for their being non-starter; and

(e) the remedial action Government propose to take to ensure